

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 3-5 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Reiter (U.S. Patent No. 6,224,002). Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Asano.

§ 112, second paragraph, Rejections - Claim 2

The Examiner rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant amends claim 2, as indicated herein, and submits that this amendment obviates the § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 2.

§ 102(e) Rejections (Reiter) - Claims 2 and 6-9

The rejections of claims 2 and 6-9 over Reiter are being appealed, as indicated in the accompanying Appeal Brief.

§ 102(b) Rejections (Asano) - Claims 6-9

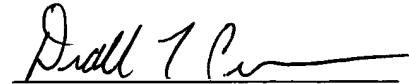
The rejections of claims 6-9 over Asano are being appealed, as indicated in the accompanying Appeal Brief.

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPEAL BRIEF
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/413,348

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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